Sarah Tarbell

OUR SECRET FAULTS.

Ps. 19:12 Cleanse thou me from secret faults.

First, what does the psalmist mean by "secret faults"?

1. We have faults known only to ourselves and loved ones at home.
   The outside world says, "What an even-tempered man Mr. Jones is!"
   All the while Mrs. Jones could give them a surprise.
2. Then we have faults known to the outside world and to ourselves, but are hidden from our family.
   Business men know of our tendency to crookedness, or associates know of our unchastity, while our family is blissfully ignorant of these faults. But finally, the secret is out and loved ones are shocked, sometimes beyond recovery.
3. But these are not the secret faults to which the psalmist refers. They are the faults of which he himself is ignorant. Faults which others may or may not see but which God always sees.
   Even in your own home you can se faults in you dear ones, of which they are unconscious. And it is reasonable to conclude that they see faults in us which we do not see in ourselves.

Our very natures are prone to making mistakes and committing faults. "born and shapen in iniquity" "all we like sheep have gobe astray" Psychology discloses that our conscious mind is but a small part of us- there is a great unconscious self that has to be reckonee with. There is far more good in all of us than we realize. On the other hand there is far more evil in the best of us than onyone realizes also. How often we surprise ourselves at some foolish or wicked thing we say or think or do. We give way to some temptation unexpectedly because there is within us a secret fault and we know it not.

What is the trouble? Why dont we know ourselves sufficiently to se our faults? Let us consider a few things that make us blind to our own faults.

1. We love ourselves too much.
   Mr. and Mrs. White visit Mr. and Mrs. Green.
   Then Mr. and mrs. Black visit, telling of the things that others are saying about Green,
2. Self-pride blind us often to our own faults.
3. Habit makes us blind to personal faults.
   Some or you use to attend church regularly
   But one Sunday you missed: then another and another until you felt comfortable in your habit and lost sight of the fact it was wromg of you to stay away from the house of God.
   My first night at Niagara- the roar kept me awake Slept better thenext night. The residents actually do not hear the roar- but it is there just the same. And so you get habitually used to certain things which once were as evil unto you but your habit has blinded you to them.
4. Custom makes us blind even more than habit.
   What everybody does we accept as right. We go with the crowd.
   2000 yrs ago the crowd shouted, "Crucify Him" Jesus was put to death and nothing was thot of it at the time. Everybody seemed to think it was allright.
   A few centuries ago thousands of withhes were burned at the stake. At the time noone thot of the injustice of it. Because all believed in it and all were doing it.
   The slave traffic of the south.
   The custon of drinking to excess.

You go to the theatre and witness immoral scenes
The same is true of certain modern dances and of certain types of dress.
Custom fills countless millions of us with rottenness.

These secret faults are the most perilous of all faults. Like the white ants of tropical Africa, working unseen within a wooden structure until finally it collapses.

Your Christian life is perhaps at a standstill? Look within yourself for secret faults.

Your personal influence, is it what it should be? In the home, in the sunday school as teacher, in business in the community in which you live?

Our secret faults and not our conscious ones should be our chief concern. We should pray with all the earnestness of our being, Lord, cleanse thou me from secret faults.

We cannot pull them up ourselves they are so many and so hidden.

But our blessed Savior can cleanse us even from secret faults. This is who God gave Christ to the world as a sacrifice for sin. "And they shal call His name Jesus for He shall save his people from their sins.

Cleanse thou me from secret faults. Search me, O God, and try me, and know my thots: and see whether there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everl asting."